GUIDE TO THE FA28 MOSSI FILE

[The Mossi file consists of twelve sources, five of which are translations from the French. The main sources are 1: Delobsom, 2: Mangin, and 6: Tauxier, all French translations, and 11: Skinner. 1: Delobsom is a general, fairly superficial survey of many aspects of Mossi life, with an emphasis on the political structure. 2: Mangin is a well-rounded, competent sketch of Mossi culture, emphasizing the material aspects. 3: Tauxier is largely a reconstruction of Mossi history. 4: Skinner discusses Mossi political organization from several viewpoints. 5: Hammond evaluates changes in the culture of those Mossi resettled in the Niger Irrigation Project. 6: Tauxier, a section from a long general work, describes occupations, family and political life, and religion. 7: Tauxier describes much the same material although with a different emphasis. 8: Skinner studies the effects of Christian and Moslem missionary work on Mossi religion. 9: Skinner analyzes patterns of succession to political office; 10: Hammond discusses the implications of Mossi joking relationships. 11: Skinner is an intensive study of Mossi political development, and 12: Skinner discusses Mossi trade and markets.

Of the authors, Tauxier was a colonial administrator with ethnological training, Mangin a Roman Catholic missionary, Dim Delobsom an educated native Mossi. Skinner and Hammond are American-trained cultural anthropologists.

In general, this file is adequate for cross-cultural purposes. There is material, superficial in many respects, on nearly every aspect of Mossi culture. Especially strong is the coverage on political organization, the family, religion and agriculture. Reliable information on kinship, physical anthropology and language is scanty. Information on clientage, the attaching of one's self to a richer household, has been placed in Category 566. The file was processed between 1959 and 1968.]